

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a zinc finger-containing protein, comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3027, SEQ ID NO:4407, SEQ ID NO:5770; and SEQ ID NO:6938;
- (ii) the complement of the sequences set forth in (i);
- (iii) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO:3028, SEQ ID NO:4408, and SEQ ID NO:5771;
- (iv) a degenerate variant of the sequences set forth in (iii);
- (v) the complement of the sequences set forth in (iii) and (iv); and
- (vi) the nucleotide sequence of the cDNAs having ATCC accession nos. \_\_\_\_\_ (MDZ3), \_\_\_\_\_ (MDZ4), \_\_\_\_\_ (MDZ7), and \_\_\_\_\_ (MDZ12a and MDZ12b); or

(b) a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:3029, SEQ ID NO:4409, SEQ ID NO:5772, and SEQ ID NO:6940;
- (ii) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:3029, SEQ ID NO:4409, SEQ ID NO:5772, SEQ ID NO:6939, and SEQ ID

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(c) an amino acid sequence according to (a)(i) or (a)(ii) in which at least 95% of deviations from the sequence of (a)(i) or (a)(ii) are conservative substitutions; or

(d) a fragment of at least 8 contiguous amino acids of any of (a) - (c).

15. A fusion protein, said fusion protein comprising a polypeptide of claim 14 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

16. The fusion protein of claim 15, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is a detectable moiety.

17. The fusion protein of claim 16, wherein said detectable moiety is fluorescent.

18. The fusion protein of claim 15, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an Ig Fc region.

19. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding fragment or derivative thereof, the binding of which can be competitively inhibited by a polypeptide of claim 14.

20. A transgenic non-human animal modified to contain the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 8 - 10.

21. A transgenic non-human animal unable to express the endogenous orthologue of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

22. A method of identifying agents that modulate

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39. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

40. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

41. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment or derivative thereof of claim 19 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the agonist of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

43. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antagonist of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

44. A method for treating or preventing a disorder associated with decreased expression or activity of MDZ3, MDZ4, MDZ7, or MDZ12, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 39, 40 or 42.

45. A method for treating or preventing a disorder associated with increased expression or activity of MDZ3, MDZ4, MDZ7 or MDZ12, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 41 or 43.



46. A method of modulating the expression of a nucleic acid according to claim 1, the method comprising:

administering an effective amount of an agent which modulates the expression of a nucleic acid according to claim 1.

47. A method of modulating at least one activity of a polypeptide according to claim 14, the method comprising:

administering an effective amount of an agent which modulates at least one activity of a polypeptide according to claim 14.